



Martinique

Department of Martinique

Caribbean

Geography

Area 1,091 sq km. A volcanic island in the eastern Caribbean Sea. The most northerly of the Windward Islands, and 100 km south of its sister island, Guadeloupe.

Population	Ann Gr	Density
2010	406,001	0.39%
2020	415,147	0.19%
2030	417,596	0.00%

Capital Fort-de-France 88,900. **Urbanites** 89.1%. **Pop under 15 yrs** 20%. **Life expectancy** 79.4 yrs.

Peoples

African Caribbean (black and mixed Creole) 94%. Increasing number of Haitians, Dominicans and others.

French 3.3%. Including local land-owning Beke.

Asian 2.7%. Mainly Tamil 1.9%; also Chinese, Vietnamese, Syrian.

Literacy 43.6%. **Official language** French. Créole Martiniquais is widely spoken. **All languages** 3. **Languages with Scriptures** 1Bi.

Economy

Based on tourism and, to a lesser degree, sugar, bananas, petroleum and rum. Heavily dependent on French aid and on imports paid for by French subsidies. Higher standard of and cost of living than most Antillean islands.

Public debt 3.7% of GDP. **Income/person** \$13,160 (29% of USA). **Unemployment** 32.5%.

Politics

A French possession since 1635. An overseas department of France since 1946. The land-owning Martinique French still control much of the economy, more so than in Guadeloupe. Nationalist sentiment occasionally flares, but is tempered by the high economic dependence on France. Protests and riots in Guadeloupe in 2009 spilled into Martinique, protestors demanding higher wages and lower prices.

Religion

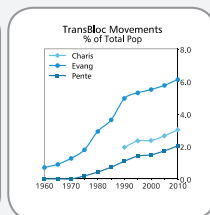
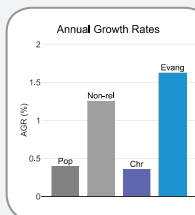
There is freedom of religion.

Religions	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Christian	95.80	388,949	0.4%
Non-religious	2.40	9,744	1.3%
Muslim	0.65	2,639	2.0%
Baha'i	0.50	2,030	0.4%
Other	0.35	1,421	3.5%
Hindu	0.30	1,218	0.4%

Christians	Denoms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
Protestant	12	10.60	43,000	1.3%
Independent	6	0.39	2,000	4.2%
Catholic	1	84.98	345,000	-0.2%
Marginal	1	2.32	9,000	2.2%
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>		-2.49	-10,000	0.0%

Churches	MegaBloc	Congs	Members	Affiliates
Catholic Church	C	50	197,143	345,000
Seventh-day Adventist	P	61	15,200	23,408
Jehovah's Witnesses	M	58	4,700	9,400
Assemblies of God	P	31	3,100	6,200
Evang Mission of Mart	P	26	4,161	5,950
Ch of God (Cleveland)	P	9	594	1,700
Christian Brethren	P	17	600	1,002
Other denominations[13]		71	3,185	5,915
<i>Doubly affiliated</i>				-10,100
Total Christians[20]		323	228,683	388,475

TransBloc	Pop %	Population	Ann Gr
Evangelicals			
Evangelicals	6.1	24,861	1.6%
Renewalists			
Charismatics	3.0	12,255	3.0%
Pentecostals	2.0	8,290	3.9%



Challenges for Prayer

1 **Martinique can be a dangerous place to live.** It periodically suffers major volcanic eruptions and earthquakes – in 1902, Mt. Pelée erupted, killing 30,000. Tropical storms and misuse of pesticides are more recent blights upon the population. But spiritual apathy is the most dangerous element that grips much of the population. Pray that they may see their basic instability and be shaken out of their carelessness about the things of God.

2 **The legacy of slavery remains strong in Martinique,** as with its sister department, Guadeloupe. The white minority controls a disproportionate amount of the economy and land, while many Creole find themselves increasingly hard-pressed due to high costs of living. The protests and riots of 2009 show deep needs for reconciliation and for society to be built on equity and justice – and that there are those who would manipulate such events to empower themselves.

3 **Pray for the churches.** There is an evangelical presence through the Assemblies of God, *Mission Chrétienne Évangélique*, *Eglise de Dieu*, Baptists, Nazarenes and among some Adventists. Many Christians come from dysfunctional or single-parent families and from a background of immorality and drug abuse. Pray for churches to be grounded in the Word, and for young people to be called into full-time service.

4 **As many as 40% of all Guadeloupans and Martiniquans live in France,** where they are known as Antilleans. They comprise a large minority in many Parisian evangelical churches. Pray for the witness of these believers. **WT** works among Antilleans in the Paris area.

5 **Christian resources,** including:

a) **Literature.** CLC operates a well-used bookstore that sells and lends books and tapes. Over 3,000 French Bibles are sold annually through the store. Pray that more local churches may see the value of Christian literature for spiritual growth and for evangelism.

b) **Audio/Radio.** GRN has recordings in Martinique Creole as well as French. *Radio Evangile Martinique* broadcasts in FM; their content is 70% locally produced and a result of collaboration between several evangelical denominations. *Radio Saint-Louis* is another Christian station also based in Martinique.